

**Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board
Pinellas County
February 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

The Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB) met in regular session at 9:00 AM on this date in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building, 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Lindsay Judah, Chair, City of St. Petersburg Fire Rescue
Dr. Ulyee Choe, Co-Chair, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director
Ricky Butler, City of Pinellas Park Councilman
Kathleen Peters, County Commissioner
Lina Teixeira, City of Clearwater Councilmember

Others Present

Gloria Coffey, Human Services Planning Section Manager
Sara Gordils, Human Services Contracts Section Manager
Cody Ward, Assistant County Attorney
Jessica Oakes, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

All documents provided to the Clerk's Office have been filed and made a part of the record.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Judah called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Teixeira made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one responded to the Chair's call for public comment.

OPIOID TASK FORCE – DATA REVIEW

No one responded to the Chair’s call for queries related to the item.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATION - UPDATE

Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Human Services Director Karen Yatchum indicated that she believes the current state of contract negotiations aligns with the Board’s funding priorities and priority populations; whereupon, she provided an update regarding negotiations with Operation PAR and discussed various aspects of the proposed Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center, including the following:

- Core services and essential, non-core services
- Partnerships with Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital and Evara Health
- Tour of the proposed site selected by Operation PAR
- Program budget and projected income

Ms. Yatchum also provided information regarding the regional fund balance and future opioid settlement distributions; whereupon, she briefly discussed next steps and related that staff will work with Operation PAR to finalize scope, which will then be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval.

Responding to queries asked by Commissioner Peters during the presentation, Ms. Yatchum provided information regarding the Women’s and Children’s Level 1 Residential program, which is a proposed essential, non-core service, and described the ways in which it would differ from other similar programs.

In response to additional comments and queries by the members, Ms. Yatchum discussed various topics, including the program’s projected recurring costs, targeted outreach marketing, and ongoing dialogue associated with whether opioid settlement funds are classified as State funds or settlement funds.

Responding to a query by Chair Judah regarding mobile Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), Operation PAR Chief Business Officer John Essenburg indicated that while Operation PAR has acquired a license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for mobile methadone treatment in Hernando County, the Drug Enforcement Administration is still deliberating with regard to required security measures; and that the mobile MAT treatment unit, which will be the first of its kind in the State of Florida, is anticipated to become operational within the next couple of months.

At Chair Judah's request, Ms. Gordils explained that the Board may entertain a motion with regard to proceeding with contract negotiation and whether to move forward with a recommendation to the BCC; whereupon, Mr. Butler made a motion to move forward with contract negotiation and to present a recommendation to the BCC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Teixeira and carried unanimously.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Gordils explained that the Board must submit its priority areas to DCF by June; whereupon, she suggested that a workshop could be scheduled to discuss and potentially reassess the Board's list of priorities. Responding to a query by Chair Judah, Ms. Gordils indicated that staff will redistribute information related to the gap analysis completed by Ernst & Young.

Referring to a comment made by Commissioner Peters earlier in the meeting, Dr. Choe and Ms. Teixeira also expressed their desire to tour the BayCare Behavioral Health Urgent Care center in Pasco County; whereupon, Ms. Gordils reported that she will coordinate Sunshine Law-compliant tours of the Urgent Care center and Operation PAR's proposed site.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the Chair's call for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Butlers made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously; whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 AM.